

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153673
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS EIND

SUBJECT:PIRACY OF US SOUND RECORDINGS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (RIAA) ABOUT THE WIDESPREAD AND ILLICIT PRACTICE IN THE ROC OF PIRATING SOUND RECORDINGS OF US MANUFACTURE AND ORIGIN. (THE RIAA COMPRISES ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF US RECORD MANUFACTURE.) ALTHOUGH THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ROC OFFICIALS BEFORE, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE RIAA BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FROM THE US VIEWPOINT AND THAT IT MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE OF BENEFIT TO LEGITIMATE TAIWANESE RECORDING INDUSTRIES TO REOPEN THIS QUESTION ON A GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 153673

2. THE ROC HAS IN RECENT YEARS SIMPLIFIED THE COPYRIGHT PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALL FOREIGN RECORDINGS. IN ANTICIPATION OF SIMPLIFYING THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM, AND HOPING FOR VIGOROUS EFFORTS BY THE ROC TO PROSECUTE RECORD PIRATES, A NUMBER OF US COMPANIES LICENSED TAIWANESE COMPANIES TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS. UNFORTUNATELY, PIRACY OF SOUND RECORDINGS OF US ORIGIN STILL PERSISTS IN THE ROC TO

THE FINANCIAL DETRIMENT OF BOTH US AND LEGITIMATE TAIWANESE

RECORD COMPANIES.

3. THE RIAA HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE TAKEN UP BY OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE ROC TO EMPHASIZE THE RIAA'S SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE BROAD INCIDENCE OF RECORD PIRACY IN THAT COUNTRY AND TO ENCOURAGE EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROTECT RECORDINGS OF US ORIGIN.

4. ALTHOUGH THE USG AND THE RIAA APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF THE ROC TO SIMPLIFY REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN RECORDINGS, THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE WILL BE NEGATED IF THERE IS NO STRINGENT ANTI-PIRACY PROGRAM.

5. THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS TAKE THIS PROBLEM UP WITH ROC OFFICIALS AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.
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Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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